<u>**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS**</u>

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1. (Currently amended) A <u>computer implemented</u> method for fulfilling at least one need comprising:

      receiving at least one request <u>for a product or service</u>;

      identifying, <u>using a computer or network,</u> a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said <u>at least one</u> request<u>, said identifying step being performed by using said computer or network to search a market database either stored in a storage device associated with said computer or network or which can be accessed electronically by said computer or network to determine equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least one request is identified from said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services determined using said computer or network</u>;

      requesting at least one offer to fulfill said <u>at least one</u> request from at least one entity within said identified markets; and

      communicating at least a portion of ~~said~~ offers <u>received in response to said requesting step</u> to a party making the <u>at least one</u> request.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1, further comprising facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least one of said ~~entities~~ <u>at least one entity</u> within said ~~identified~~ <u>plurality of</u> markets <u>identified in said identifying step</u>.

1　4. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 3 wherein the

2　identity of said party making the request is withheld for a period of time from said ~~entities~~

3　<u>at least one entity</u> within said ~~identified~~ <u>plurality of</u> markets <u>identified in said identifying</u>

4　<u>step</u>.

1　5. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　offers are made through an open auction.

1　6. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　offers are made through a sealed auction.

1　7. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　offers are made through a series of negotiations.

1　8. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　offers are made through a posting of a price.

1　9. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1　10. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　communication of at least a portion of said offers includes ~~the~~ <u>an</u> offered ~~prices~~ <u>price</u>.

1　11. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　communication of at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a description in terms of</u>

3　<u>quality of</u> ~~the perceived quality of the goods or services~~ <u>what is</u> being offered.

1　12. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2　communication of at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a description sufficient to</u>

3　<u>identify</u> ~~the type of goods or services~~ <u>what is</u> being offered.

1 13. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2 communication of at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a description in terms of</u>

3 <u>reliability of said at least one entity</u> ~~the perceived reliability of said entities~~ within said

4 <u>plurality of</u> ~~identified~~ markets <u>identified in said identifying step</u>.

1 14. (Currently amended) The <u>computer implemented</u> method of claim 1 wherein said

2 communication of at least a portion of said offers includes ~~the perceived optimum~~ <u>a</u>

3 solution to ~~the~~ fulfillment of said request.

1 15. Canceled

1 16. (Currently amended). A <u>data processing</u> system for fulfilling at least one need

2 comprising:

3   means for receiving at least one request <u>for a product or service</u>;

4   means for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said <u>at</u>

5 <u>least one</u> request<u>, said means for identifying functioning by performing a computerized</u>

6 <u>search of a market database either stored in a storage device associated with a computer</u>

7 <u>that is a part of said means for identifying or which can be accessed electronically by said</u>

8 <u>computer, and using said computerized search to determine equivalent products or</u>

9 <u>services or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least</u>

10 <u>one request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request,</u>

11 <u>whereby said means for identifying identifies a plurality of markets that are capable of</u>

12 <u>fulfilling said at least one request from said product or service of said at least one request</u>

13 <u>and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services</u>

14 <u>determined using said computerized search</u>;

15   means for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said <u>at least one</u> request from

16 entities within ~~said~~ identified markets <u>identified by said means for identifying</u>; and

17   means for communicating at least a portion of ~~said~~ offers <u>received in response to a</u>

18 <u>request made by said means for requesting</u> to a party making the <u>at least one</u> request.

1   17. Canceled

1   18. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16, further comprising

2   means for facilitating a transaction between said party making the request and at least one

3   of said ~~entities~~ <u>at least one entity</u> within said identified markets.

1   19. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 18 further comprising

2   means for withholding the identity of said party making the request for a period of time

3   from said ~~entities~~ <u>at least one entity</u> within said identified markets.

1   20. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 further comprising

2   means for said offers to be made through an open auction.

1   21. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 further comprising

2   means for said offers to be made through a sealed auction.

1   22. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 further comprising

2   means for said offers to be made through a series of negotiations.

1   23. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 further comprising

2   means for said offers to be made through a posting of a price.

1   24. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 wherein said offers are

2   offers for exchange of goods or services.

1   25. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 wherein said means for

2   communicating at least a portion of said offers includes ~~the~~ <u>an</u> offered ~~prices~~ <u>price</u>.

1   26. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 wherein said means for

2   communicating at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a description in terms of quality</u>

3   <u>of</u> ~~the perceived quality of the goods or services~~ <u>what is</u> being offered.

1   27. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 wherein said means for

2   communicating at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a description sufficient to identify</u>

3   ~~the type of goods or services~~ <u>what is</u> being offered.

1   28. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 wherein said means for

2   communicating at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a description in terms of</u>

3   <u>reliability of said at least one entity</u> ~~the perceived reliability of said entities~~ within said

4   identified markets.

1   29. (Currently amended) The <u>data processing</u> system of claim 16 wherein said means for

2   communicating at least a portion of said offers includes ~~the perceived optimum~~ <u>a</u> solution

3   to ~~the~~ fulfillment of said request.

1   30. Canceled

1   31. (Currently amended) A ~~need fulfillment optimization system~~ <u>data processing system</u>

2   <u>for need fulfillment optimization</u> comprising:

3   a memory for storing data comprising market profiles; and

4   a central processing unit coupled to said memory, said central processing unit

5   being capable of:

6   receiving at least one request <u>for a product or service;</u>

7   identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said <u>at least</u>

8   <u>one</u> request<u>, said identifying being performed by using said central processing unit to</u>

9   <u>search said market profiles in said memory to determine equivalent products or services</u>

10   <u>or combinations of products or services to said product or service of said at least one</u>

11   <u>request and which would fulfill any requirements of said at least one request, whereby a</u>

12   <u>plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least on request is identified from</u>

13   said product or service of said at least one request and said equivalent products or

14   services or combinations of products or services determined using said central processing

15   unit;

16   requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at least

17   one entity within said identified markets identified by said central processing unit; and

18   communicating at least a portion of said offers received in response to a

19   request made by said central processing unit to a party making the at least one request.

1   32. Canceled

1   33. (Currently amended) The system data processing system for need fulfillment

2   optimization of claim 31, wherein said processing unit is further capable of facilitating a

3   transaction between said party making the at least one request and at least one of said

4   entities at least one entity within said identified markets.

1   34. (Currently amended) The system data processing system for need fulfillment

2   optimization of claim 33 wherein said processing unit is further capable of withholding

3   the identity of said party making the request for a period of time from said entities at least

4   one entity within said identified markets.

1   35. (Currently amended) The system data processing system for need fulfillment

2   optimization of claim 31 wherein said offers are made through an open auction.

1   36. (Currently amended) The system data processing system for need fulfillment

2   optimization of claim 31 wherein said offers are made through a sealed auction.

1   37. (Currently amended) The system data processing system for need fulfillment

2   optimization of claim 31 wherein said offers are made through a series of negotiations.

1   38. (Currently amended) The system data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim 31 wherein said offers are made through a posting of a price.

1 39. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim 31 wherein said offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1 40. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim ~~41~~ 31 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said

3 offers includes ~~the~~ an offered ~~prices~~ price.

1 41. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim 31 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers

3 includes a description in terms of quality of ~~the perceived quality of the goods or services~~

4 what is being offered.

1 42. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim 31 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers

3 includes a description sufficient to identify ~~the type of goods or services~~ what is being

4 offered.

1 43. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim 31 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers

3 includes a description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity ~~the perceived~~

4 ~~reliability of said entities~~ within said identified markets.

1 44. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ data processing system for need fulfillment

2 optimization of claim 31 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers

3 includes ~~the perceived optimum~~ a solution to ~~the~~ fulfillment of said request.

45. Canceled

1 46. (Currently amended) A machine readable medium containing a computer program

2 for fulfilling at least one need comprising:

3 code for receiving at least one request for a product or service;

4 code for identifying a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said at least

5 one request, said code for identifying providing instructions for a computer or network to

6 search a market database either stored in a storage device associated with said computer

7 or network or which can be accessed electronically by said computer or network to

8 determine equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services to said

9 product or service of said at least one request and which would fulfill any requirements of

10 said at least one request, whereby a plurality of markets that are capable of fulfilling said

11 at least one request is identified from said product or service of said at least one request

12 and said equivalent products or services or combinations of products or services

13 determined using said computer or network;

14 code for requesting at least one offer to fulfill said at least one request from at

15 least one entity within said identified markets identified using said code for identifying;

16 and

17 code for communicating at least a portion of said offers received in response to a

18 request made using said code for requesting to a party making the at least one request.

47. Canceled

1 48. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program

2 of claim 46, further comprising code for facilitating a transaction between said party

3 making the request and at least one of said entities at least one entity within said

4 identified markets.

1 49. (Currently amended) The machine readable medium containing a computer program

2 of claim 48 further comprising code for withholding the identity of said party making the

3 request for a period of time from said entities at least one entity within said identified

4   markets.

1   50. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through an open auction.

1   51. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through a sealed auction.

1   52. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through a series of negotiations.

1   53. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said offers are made through a posting of a price.

1   54. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said offers are offers for exchange of goods or services.

1   55. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes ~~the~~

3   <u>an</u> offered ~~prices~~ <u>price</u>.

1   56. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a</u>

3   <u>description in terms of quality of</u> ~~the perceived quality of the goods or services~~ <u>what is</u>

4   being offered.

1   57. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a</u>

3   <u>description sufficient to identify</u> ~~the type of goods or services~~ <u>what is</u> being offered.

1   58. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes <u>a</u>

3   <u>description in terms of reliability of said at least one entity</u> ~~the perceived reliability of said~~

4   ~~entities~~ within said identified markets.

1   59. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 wherein said communication of at least a portion of said offers includes ~~the~~

3   ~~perceived optimum~~ <u>a</u> solution to ~~the~~ fulfillment of said request.

1   60. (Currently amended) The <u>machine readable medium containing a</u> computer program

2   of claim 46 further comprising code for said identification to be accomplished in part by

3   ~~translating terms of art contained within said request~~ <u>processing data from a market</u>

4   <u>database</u>.